

as their feathers readily fall off, and their skins are tender and easily torn.

Length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Irides reddish ; legs and feet pale flesh-colour ; upper surface of body pale brown, each feather tipped with darker, forming transverse bars ; chin and breast dove-colour, feathers tipped with darker ; belly buff, feathers with darker tips ; six outer tail-feathers black, with white tips ; two next black, with basal part of the shaft red ; centre feathers brown ; wing-feathers rich chestnut-red, edged with blackish-brown.

[To be continued.]

XXVII.—*Notes on Birds observed in the Ionian Islands, and the Provinces of Albania proper, Epirus, Acarnania, and Montenegro.* By the Hon. THOMAS L. POWYS, F.Z.S. (Part III.)

[Continued from page 140.]

81. HEDGE SPARROW. (*Accentor modularis.*)

Very common in Corfu in winter. I have observed one or two individuals during the summer months, and seen some eggs (which I believe belonged to this species) taken in Epirus.

82. ROBIN REDBREAST. (*Sylvia rubecula.*)

Arrives in Corfu in great numbers about the end of October, and disappears in March. Not very abundant on the mainland.

83. BLUE-THROATED WARBLER. (*Sylvia cyanecula.*)

I only once saw a bird of this species in these parts ; this was in the Val di Roppa, in Corfu, in April 1857.

84. COMMON REDSTART. (*Sylvia phænicura.*)

Arrives in March in small numbers, remaining, I think, only a few days.

85. BLACK REDSTART. (*Sylvia tithys.*)

Common in Corfu and Epirus in winter. A few remain to breed in the island.

86. WHITE WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla alba.*)

Common, and resident in Corfu ; I have not observed it on the mainland except during the winter months.

87. GREY WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla boarula.*)

Common in winter in Corfu and Epirus.

88. GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla cinereocapilla.*)

Arrives in great numbers in Corfu about the middle of April, at which season it is to be found in small flocks in all the low meadows and maize-fields of the island. I never could find a nest of this species, though I have observed a few pairs during the whole summer.

89. BLACK-HEADED WAGTAIL. (*Motacilla melanocephala.*)

Arrives with the above species, but in much smaller numbers, and only remains for a few days. The locality in which I have most frequently observed this bird was the marsh at the mouth of the Kataito river, near Butrinto in Epirus. They appear to be more arboreal in their habits than the other Wagtails, and have a very distinct and peculiar note. The Corfu bird-stuffer told me, on my showing him one of this species, that he had never before observed it, and insisted that it was only a variety of the above; but there are slight differences of habits, flights, &c., which at once distinguish it from that bird, were the plumage not at once sufficient to settle the question. To myself this species appears to resemble *Motacilla rayi* (which I have never observed in these parts) in all particulars more than any other of its congeners.

90. ROCK PIPIT. (*Anthus rupestris.*)

Common on the coasts of Epirus and Corfu.

91. MEADOW PIPIT. (*Anthus pratensis.*)

Very common in Corfu and Epirus in winter. A few are to be seen in the island at all seasons.

92. TREE PIPIT. (*Anthus arboreus.*)

Not common. I have now and then observed it in Corfu during the winter.

93. SKYLARK. (*Alauda arvensis.*)

Common in Corfu and Epirus in winter.

94. WOODLARK. (*Alauda arborea.*)

Common in winter in Corfu. A few remain to breed in the island.

95. CRESTED LARK. (*Galerida cristata*.)

Very common in all seasons in Corfu and Epirus.

96. CALANDRA LARK. (*Alauda calandra*.)

A few of this species are to be observed in summer in Corfu, where they breed. I have never observed this bird on the mainland.

97. SHORT-TOED LARK. (*Alauda brachydactyla*.)

Common in winter in Corfu and Epirus.

98. WHITE-NECKED FLYCATCHER. (*Muscicapa albicollis*.)

I observed several of these birds in May 1857 near Pelleka, in the island of Corfu.

99. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. (*Muscicapa grisola*.)

Common in summer in Corfu and Epirus.

100. THRUSH WARBLER. (*Sylvia turdoides*.)

Common, and resident in Corfu and Epirus.

101. RUFOUS SEDGE WARBLER. (*Sylvia galactodes*.)

I twice observed this species in these parts ; once in the island of Corfu, on which occasion a friend killed a fine specimen ; and a few weeks afterwards near Kataito, in Epirus, where I watched a pair for some time, but refrained from shooting them, as my gun was loaded with large shot.

102. NIGHTINGALE. (*Sylvia luscinia*.)

Very common in Corfu and all parts of the mainland that I have visited during the summer ; at Delvino especially, in May 1857, we could hardly sleep for the multitude of Nightingales that were singing on the banks of a little stream that ran under the windows of the house in which we lodged.

103. OLIVE-GROVE WARBLER. (*Sylvia olivetorum*.)

I shot one of this species near Corfu in April 1857, and have seen the skin of another from Zante.

104. COMMON WHITETHROAT. (*Sylvia cinerea*.)

I have occasionally observed this bird in Corfu in September and October.

105. LESSER WHITETHROAT. (*Sylvia curruca.*)

I shot one of this species in Corfu in September 1857. This is the only instance in which it came under my notice in these parts.

106. SUBALPINE WARBLER. (*Sylvia subalpina.*)

A beautiful specimen of this pretty little bird was brought to me by one of my yacht's crew, who had picked it up close to the lighthouse of Santa Maura, on the 24th of March, 1857. I have occasionally noticed this species in Epirus in February and March.

107. BLACK-HEADED WARBLER. (*Sylvia melanocephala.*)

Very common, and resident in Corfu and Epirus. I have found the nest of this species on the citadel rock of Corfu.

108. ORPHEAN WARBLER. (*Sylvia orphea.*)

Occasionally seen in spring, but decidedly not common in Corfu.

109. GARDEN WARBLER. (*Sylvia hortensis.*)

I found a nest of this bird, containing eggs, near Khimàra in Epirus, in May 1857. I do not remember to have noticed it in these parts on any other occasion.

110. WILLOW WREN. (*Phylloscopus trochilus.*)

I have occasionally seen this species in winter in the gardens in the vicinity of Corfu.

111. CHIFF-CHAFF. (*Phylloscopus rufus.*)

Common in Epirus in spring and summer. I have occasionally heard it in sunny weather in December.

112. WOOD WREN. (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix.*)

I picked up one of this species on the beach near Govino, in the island of Corfu, in March 1857. It is decidedly far from common in Corfu and Epirus.

113. SOUTHERN WILLOW WREN ?

I have often seen, and once or twice killed, a Willow Wren in Epirus in winter, which I believe to be the *Hypolais salicaria* of Brehm. It certainly does not belong to any of the three preceding species. I always found a few of these birds among the

tamarisks at the mouth of the Kataito river in Epirus, in December and January.

114. AQUATIC WARBLER. (*Calamodyta aquatica.*)

This species is to be found in considerable numbers, for a few days about the beginning of May, on the banks of a reedy pond near Govino, about seven miles from Corfu. I never noticed it in any other locality, either in Corfu or on the mainland; but from the 2nd and 3rd till the 8th or 10th of May, 1857 and 1858, in the above-mentioned spot, it was very abundant. I could not observe a single individual after the 10th instant in either year, and searched in vain for their nest. This species is very common at Nice in August and September.

115. CETTI'S WARBLER. (*Calamodyta cetti.*)

This species occurs sparingly in Corfu in April. I do not think that it remains to breed.

116. FANTAIL WARBLER. (*Calamodyta cisticola.*)

Very common, and resident in Corfu and Epirus.

117. REED WARBLER. (*Calamodyta strepera.*)

Common in winter in Epirus and Acarnania.

118. COMMON WREN. (*Troglodytes europæus.*)

Common, and resident in Epirus. I have not noticed it in the island of Corfu, except during the winter.

119. SYRIAN NUTHATCH. (*Sitta syriaca.*)

Common in certain suitable localities in Epirus, particularly amongst the stony and precipitous hills near Santa Quaranta, where I have frequently observed it in small parties of five or six, flitting about and busily examining the holes and crevices of the rocks. It is a lively and restless bird, and has a note entirely different from that of the Common Nuthatch (*Sitta casia*). I never observed this bird to perch on a tree or shrub, but almost invariably found them on the most exposed and barren hill-sides.

120. GREAT TITMOUSE. (*Parus major.*)

Occasionally seen in Corfu and Epirus in winter.

121. MARSH TITMOUSE. (*Parus palustris.*)

Common, and I believe resident in Epirus.

122. COLE TITMOUSE. (*Parus ater.*)

Occasionally seen in Corfu in winter.

123. BLUE TITMOUSE. (*Parus cæruleus.*)

Common, and resident in Corfu and Epirus.

124. LONG-TAILED TITMOUSE. (*Parus caudatus.*)

Common in winter in Epirus.

125. BEARDED TITMOUSE. (*Parus biarmicus.*)

I observed several of this species about the banks of the Lake of Scutari in Albania proper in August 1857.

126. PENDULINE TITMOUSE. (*Parus pendulinus.*)

Common in the great marshes at the mouth of the Acheron in Epirus in winter, and I believe resident there. It is curious, that, though I am acquainted with many apparently equally suitable haunts for this species in Epirus, the above is the only locality in that country in which I have ever seen or heard of it.

127. GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN. (*Regulus cristatus.*)

Common in the evergreen coverts of Epirus in winter.

128. DIPPER. (*Cinclus aquaticus.*)

Common on the mountain streams of Albania and Epirus.

129. GOLDEN ORIOLE. (*Oriolus galbula.*)

This species arrives in Corfu and Epirus about the middle of April, and is eagerly sought after by the 'cacciatori' for the market. I think very few remain to breed in the island; but I have often observed them on the mainland in May and June. I always found it very difficult to get a shot at these birds; for immediately they discover that they are pursued, they ensconce themselves in the thickest covert at hand, and nothing will induce them to quit it. They have, besides the musical whistle from which they take their French, Italian, Spanish, and Greek name, a very peculiar guttural chatter, which I have often heard within a few yards, though I could not see the bird, or force it to take wing. In September they are very abundant in the gardens of Corfu, and are very fat, and delicious eating. I never could obtain an adult specimen at that season; though I have seen dozens hanging up in the market, they were all birds

of the year. I saw several of this species in Montenegro in August 1857.

130. HOUSE SWALLOW. (*Hirundo rustica*.)

Very common in summer in Corfu and Epirus.

131. COMMON MARTIN. (*Hirundo urbica*.)

Common in summer in Corfu and Epirus.

132. SAND MARTIN. (*Hirundo riparia*.)

Not very common in Epirus in summer.

133. ROCK SWALLOW. (*Hirundo rupestris*.)

Common, and resident in Epirus, haunting the high and precipitous mountains of the interior in summer, and coming down to the coast during the winter months.

134. COMMON SWIFT. (*Cypselus apus*.)

Common in Corfu in summer, but less so than the next species.

135. ALPINE SWIFT. (*Cypselus melba*.)

Arrives in May in great numbers in Corfu, and remains till the end of September. Several pairs breed annually in the citadel rock.

136. CUCKOO. (*Cuculus canorus*.)

Arrives in Corfu in small numbers in April, and remains a few days; occasionally seen on its return south in the early part of September. I once saw a Cuckoo on the mainland in July.

137. BLACK WOODPECKER. (*Picus martius*.)

I saw two specimens of this Woodpecker at Santa Maura, which I was assured had been killed on the Black Mountain of Cephalonia. I caught a glimpse of a bird, which I believe to have been one of this species, in a wood near the mouth of the river Drin, in December 1857.

138. WHITE-RUMPED WOODPECKER. (*Picus leuconotus*.)

I killed two specimens of this bird in the woods about Butrinto, in the winter. It is not uncommon, but very wary, and difficult to shoot. Its note and general habits very much resemble those of *Picus major*.

139. LITTLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER. (*Picus minor*.)

Common in winter in the woods of Epirus.

140. GREEN WOODPECKER. (*Gecinus viridis*.)

I saw a Green Woodpecker near the mouth of the Drin in December 1857. This is the only instance in which this species came under my observation in these parts.

141. GREY-HEADED GREEN WOODPECKER. (*Gecinus canus*.)

I saw a fine specimen of this bird near Cettinje, in Montenegro, in August 1857; he settled on a tree close to me, and I watched him for several minutes, much regretting that I had not a gun.

142. WRYNECK. (*Yunx torquilla*.)

Not very common. I only twice observed it in Epirus; the first time in the great marsh at Phanari, in March 1857, and again near Kinouria, at the head of the Lake of Butrinto, in December of the same year. On the first occasion I mistook it for *Sylvia nisoria*, and pursued it through dense thickets of Tamarisk, till at last I succeeded in shooting it, and was greatly disappointed when it turned out to be nothing but a "Cuckoo's mate."

143. ROLLER. (*Coracias garrula*.)

Arrives in great numbers in Corfu about the middle of April; it only remains for a few days in the island, but breeds on the mainland. I found a nest in the walls of a ruined house at Delvino, in May 1857. The birds had quite lost their usual timidity, and flew round my head chattering and screaming as I approached the nest, which I suspect was an old one of some other bird. This species is known to the *cacciatori* as '*Corvo marino*,' and among the Greek peasantry as 'Αλκοκορώνη. I discovered another nest, in June 1857, in the banks of the Kataito River, near the village of Mursyah. In this instance, the nest was in a hole in the bank, and consisted of a few twigs, carelessly put together.

144. COMMON BEE-EATER. (*Merops apiaster*.)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus in great numbers in April, and breeds in the latter country on the banks of the Kataito River, near Mursyah, and many other similar localities. In all the

holes that we examined, the eggs were laid on the bare sand, without any attempt at a nest. I several times observed three, and once or twice four birds fly from the same hole. These birds leave the country as soon as the young are able to fly. I have never seen them later than the beginning of August. I observed also, in August 1858, on the banks of the Guadalquivir, near San Juan de Alfarache, where there is a large colony of this species, that, although the banks were mined in every direction, and exhibited signs of recent occupation, not a Bee-eater was to be seen.

145. COMMON KINGFISHER. (*Alcedo ispida*.)

Very abundant, and resident in Corfu and Epirus.

146. HOOPOE. (*Upupa epops*.)

Very common in summer in Epirus, arriving about the 20th March, and leaving the country in September. I do not think that the Hoopoe breeds in the island of Corfu, though it is common there in March and August. I once found a nest of this bird in Epirus on the ground, under a large boulder on a stony hill-side, but the usual site for it in that country appears to be the hole of a tree.

147. COMMON NIGHTJAR. (*Caprimulgus europæus*.)

Arrives in small numbers in Corfu and Epirus in April, but does not, I think, remain to breed. I found a small party of Nightjars at Paganía in September 1857.

148. RINGDOVE. (*Columba palumbus*.)

I noticed very large flocks of Wood-pigeons near Phanari, in the plains through which the Acheron runs. This was in March 1857. I have occasionally seen a few in different parts of Epirus during the winter months, but it is not abundant in that province. I never saw it in Corfu.

149. STOCK-DOVE. (*Columba ænas*.)

Common about the shores of the Gulf of Arta in March 1857. I have seen single birds at all seasons of the year near Butrinto and Kataito, and once or twice in the island of Corfu.

150. ROCK-DOVE. (*Columba livia*.)

Very common, and resident on the coasts of Albania, Epirus,

and Corfu. Near the mouth of the river Kalamo these birds breed on the bare rocks, after the manner of some of the Gulls. On the peninsula of Paganía there is a curious natural pit, some 60 or 70 feet in depth, frequented by this species in great numbers. In this, my servant (who was once lowered into it by a rope, for the purpose of forcing out the doves) had an encounter with a wild cat, which at last retreated into a side gallery and was lost sight of. On throwing stones down this pit, a dozen or two of Doves, Blue Thrushes, Blackbirds, Little Owls, and Nuthatches (*Sitta syriaca*) would often dash out in confusion, with now and then a large Bat; and on one occasion a Peregrine Falcon. There are small colonies of Rock-doves in many parts of the coast of the island of Corfu, particularly at Paleocastrizza and near Porto Serpente.

151. **TURTLE-DOVE.** (*Columba turtur*.)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus early in April in great numbers, and remains to breed, disappearing about the end of August.

152. **COMMON PHEASANT.** (*Phasianus colchicus*.)

The only localities in which I have myself seen Pheasants in these parts, were, once on the Luro River, near Prevesa, in March 1857, on which occasion I only saw one, the bird having never previously been met with in that part of the country; and again, in December of the same year, in the forests near the mouth of the river Drin, in Albania, where it is comparatively common, and where several fell to our guns. In this latter locality, the Pheasant's habitat seems to be confined to a radius of from twenty to thirty miles to the north, east, and south of the town of Alessio,—a district for the most part densely wooded, and well watered, with occasional tracts of cultivated ground, Indian Corn being apparently the principal produce, and forming, with the berries of the Privet (which abounds throughout Albania), the chief food of the present species. We heard many more Pheasants than we saw, as the woods were thick and of great extent, our dogs wild, and we lost a great deal of time in making circuits to cross or avoid the numerous small but deep streams which intersect the country in every direction. This species is particularly abundant on the shores of the Gulf of

Salonica, about the mouth of the river Vardar; and I have been informed, on good authority, that Pheasants are also to be found in the woods of Vhrakori in Ætolia, about midway between the Gulfs of Lepanto and Arta.

153. GREEK PARTRIDGE. (*Perdix græca*.)

This is the Common Partridge of Epirus and the Ionian Islands; it is not very abundant in Corfu, where it is only to be met with on the ridge of San Salvador. The Greek Partridge haunts the stony hill-sides,—never, as far as my own observation goes, descending to the plain. It is not easy to make a good bag of these birds, even in localities where they are numerous, as the coveys disperse on being disturbed; and on alighting, each bird takes a line of its own, and sets off running to the nearest covert, which in these parts generally consists of thick evergreen scrub, from which it is very difficult to flush them. In the Ionian Islands they are most abundant in Cephalonia, Santa Maura, Kalamo, Petala, Arkudi, and Meganisi. The flesh of this species is, to my taste, far superior to that of either of its congeners, *P. rubra* or *P. petrosa*.

154. GREY PARTRIDGE. (*Perdix cinerea*.)

This species is common in the cultivated plains of Albania proper, in which provinces I have seen and shot it near Antivari. In Epirus it is found in considerable numbers near Joannina, and in the plains of Arta. I have also heard of its occurrence in the neighbourhood of Avlona, about eighty miles north of the island of Corfu.

155. QUAIL. (*Coturnix vulgaris*.)

A few Quails remain the whole year in Corfu and Epirus; but great numbers arrive every year in April, and remain for a few days. On the little island of Fano especially, they sometimes at that season alight in incredible numbers, often only remaining a single night. I have occasionally met with good sport at Quails in the maize-fields of Epirus in September; these were chiefly young birds that had been bred in the country. A few are always to be found in winter on the grassy hills of the mainland opposite to Corfu, particularly on those near the little harbour of Paganía.

156. PIN-TAILED SAND-GROUSE. (*Pterodes alchata*.)

Three of this species flew across our bows towards the east, as I was going from Corfu to Malta, on board H.M.S. Coquette, on the 1st August, 1858. We had just sighted Sicily when they passed us. I have never seen or heard of the occurrence of Sand-grouse in any part of Greece or European Turkey.

157. GREAT BUSTARD. (*Otis tarda*.)

A Great Bustard flew over my head one day in February 1858, as I was chasing Grebes in the Bay of Butrinto. This is the only occasion on which I saw this species in these parts; but I was shown some of the feathers of one which had been killed in Acarnania in March 1857; and in the following winter several were killed near Cape Papas, in the Morea, where they are not uncommon. Great numbers were brought into Athens in January 1858. The Great Bustard breeds in the Morea, in the vicinity of Tripolitza.

158. LITTLE BUSTARD. (*Otis tetrax*.)

I saw a Little Bustard in the island of Corfu in December 1856, and two more near Livitazza in Epirus in March 1858. It is far from common in these parts. I only saw one freshly killed specimen during my stay amongst Greek seas, which was shot at Livitazza in January 1857, by an officer of the garrison of Corfu. The bird-stuffer had never before seen a specimen.

159. COMMON PRATINCOLE. (*Glareola pratincola*.)

Arrives in Corfu and Epirus in considerable numbers in April, and remains a few weeks in the country. I have found that, though these birds are not easy to approach by walking straight at them, they will squat, if one makes a circuit round them, gradually lessening the distance, and will allow themselves to be nearly trodden upon before taking wing. Large numbers frequent the race-course at Corfu in April. The Corfiote name for this species is "*Pernice di mare*." The food of the Pratincole appears to consist almost exclusively of various species of beetles.